

Visitors, please read

We warmly welcome all visitors and seekers in our midst today.

**Holy Communion is the greatest gift on earth. It is given by God to baptized and chrismated Orthodox Christians, who have prepared themselves with regular prayer, fasting (from midnight, unless there is a medical condition), and confession, and who have the blessing of their spiritual father or confessor to receive it.**

We welcome anyone visiting for the first time, and we trust that your experience here will be an uplifting and enriching one. The Orthodox Christian Church is actually a community of local Churches, whose roots are the ancient and native Christian communities of the biblical world, with centers in Jerusalem, Syria, Egypt, and Asia Minor, and by extension in Greece, Cyprus, Russia, North America, and throughout the world.

As a continuation of the ancient Church, we engage the whole person, heart, mind, and all senses in divine worship. This experience has been so powerful to seekers in the past that it was often said "We knew not whether we were in heaven or on earth. We knew only that there God dwelt among men" (Russian Primary Chronicle). That experience of heaven on earth and God in our midst forms the heart of all Orthodox worship.

Our worship culminates in the sharing of Holy Communion, which not only unites us with the Divine, but also expresses the deep unity in faith and life among all Orthodox believers. Since Holy Communion expresses that deep unity in belief and practice alike, it is reserved for practicing Orthodox Christians, who have properly prepared themselves with prayer, fasting, and recent confession. This is because the Orthodox choose not to make an external display of unity with other Christian groups when actual unity of faith and practice does not exist.

While working to restore the full communion that did exist among Christians in antiquity, today we offer the blessed bread (*antidoron*) at the conclusion of the Liturgy, as a gift of hospitality and of growing unity that is offered to all present. If you would like to learn more about the Orthodox way of life, or have any questions about worship or Holy Communion, please approach Fr. Michael or one of the other clergy following the Liturgy.

Thank you for joining us, and again, we welcome you all.

*We hope you enjoy your visit with us here at Holy Cross, and we thank you for joining us today.*

*We formally invite you and/or your guests to join us for coffee hour in the community center next door. If you can stay, we would love to have you!*

Sunday, March 8, 2020 ~ Sunday of Orthodoxy

The reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the Hebrews 11:24-26, 32-40

Brethren, by faith Moses, when he was grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to share ill-treatment with the people of God than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin.

And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets -- who through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, received promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign enemies to flight. Women received their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, that they might rise again to a better life. Others suffered mocking and scourging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were killed with the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, ill-treated -- of whom the world was not worthy -- wandering over deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth.

And all these, though well attested by their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had foreseen something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect.

The Gospel According John 1:43-51

At that time, Jesus decided to go to Galilee. And he found Philip and said to him, "Follow me." Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael, and he said to him, "We have found him of whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." Jesus saw Nathanael coming to him, and said of him, "Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile!" Nathanael said to him, "How do you know me?" Jesus answered him, "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you." Nathanael answered him, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" Jesus answered him, "Because I said to you, I saw you under the fig tree, do you believe? You shall see greater things than these." And he said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, you will see heaven opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of man."

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*Coffee Hour is sponsored by Philoptochos.*

THE ORTHODOX CLERGY BROTHERHOOD OF GREATER PITTSBURGH INVITES YOU TO THE PITTSBURGH AREA

## SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY PAN-ORTHODOX VESPERS

Sunday, March 8, 2020 at 4:30 PM  
Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church  
985 Providence Boulevard  
Pittsburgh, PA 15237

**Celebrant and Homilist: His Grace Bishop John**  
Antiochian Orthodox Diocese of Worcester and New England

Also featuring the Pan-Orthodox Choir under the direction of Fr. Tom Soroka  
Vespers will be followed by fellowship and Lenten refreshments.

*Fr. Michael will be at the Metropolis Clergy Retreat from Tuesday through Thursday.  
In case of pastoral emergency, please call Fr. Dan Korba at (412) 262-4589.*

### **THIS WEEK:**

Monday – March 9	<b>6:30pm Great Compline</b>
Tuesday – March 10	Metropolis Clergy Retreat 7pm -Library IOCC Pittsburgh Metropolitan Comm Mtg
Wednesday – March 11	Metropolis Clergy Retreat 4:30pm Greek School <b>6pm Presanctified Liturgy</b>
Thursday – March 12	Metropolis Clergy Retreat 7pm Chant Class
Friday – March 13	<b>9am Presanctified Liturgy</b> <b>6:30pm Salutations</b>
Saturday – March 14	10am-2pm Pre-marriage Seminar <b>5pm Vespers /Confessions</b>



Greek School will celebrate the  
**Annunciation of the Theotokos & Greek Independence Day**  
on **Sunday, March 22** after Liturgy, in the Community Center  
with a **Spaghetti Luncheon & Program.**  
No charge; donations accepted.

Ladies and Gentlemen of Holy Cross - High School Grads and Beyond! The 2020 Philoptochos membership drive is ending in March! There will be a Philoptochos membership sign-up table TODAY, March 8 and next Sunday, March 15, at coffee hour. Please consider joining our very worthwhile, philanthropic group! Please stop by and renew or join Philoptochos for 2020! Or fill out the membership form in today's bulletin and mail it in!

A reminder to PLEDGED (families) high school seniors who are applying for the Popi Hagelios Memorial Philanthropy Award of Holy Cross Philoptochos Society, that your applications must be received by 4pm Friday, March 20 in the church office or to Elaine Sofis at church or her home, 121 Woodhaven Drive, Mt. Lebanon on Sunday, March 22. NO exceptions.

**GOLDEN CLUB MEMBERS/NEW MEMBERS:** After our winter hiatus, we'll start the New Year off with our yearly Lenten, covered-dish luncheon on **Tuesday, March 17th** at 11am in the Community Center. We will begin serving at 11:30am. We're suggesting Lenten items/dishes, such as vegetables, salads, fruit and desserts. Following lunch, we will welcome our own parishioner Bryan Elderkin, who will speak on his pilgrimage to Mt. Athos. We're looking forward to seeing all our members and, of course, any new members to our first Golden Club meeting of the year! That day we will also be collecting dues of \$10.00 for 2020. **Please RSVP by Wednesday, March 11th** to Rene 412-831-3142; [rjkoett@yahoo.com](mailto:rjkoett@yahoo.com) or Cynthia 412-833-9423; [cakostelnik@yahoo.com](mailto:cakostelnik@yahoo.com).

**TO RENEW OR JOIN PHILOPTOCHOS for 2020,** please complete and return to church or to *Connie Carabalis, 224 Mt. Lebanon Blvd, Pittsburgh 15234*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

\*From your Philoptochos Stewardship donation, \$15 is sent to National Philoptochos in NYC and \$10 is sent to the Pittsburgh Metropolis Philoptochos. Anything over \$25 goes to Holy Cross Philoptochos. **Or see any Board Member to pay your dues!**